

this country. Unfortunately, we get in here and get carried away with the politics of the moment. But reasonable people, I think across the country, would say we can agree on this, so let us do that today, then let us come back and talk further about what we cannot agree on.

Now, speaking personally, there are a lot of things in the package, above and beyond the unemployment provisions, that I think are pretty good public policy. What I disagree on and what the Blue Dogs have talked about forever is the fact that we continue to pile on debt after debt after debt, with no attempt to look at the 10-year budget window and figure out a way to pay for this stimulus package, so-called stimulus package. We do not even make an attempt to do so.

This package is going to put another \$175 billion of debt on us. We already know we have another \$1 trillion of interest coming in the next 10 years, if the projections hold. We tried to warn last year that we should not put out a 10-year package, where fully 70 percent of the expected surplus is not even going to get here for 5 years. That is not how we should run the business of this country, and it is foolish to try to say that that is going to be the case.

But beyond all that, people in this country understand borrowing money, and they understand paying interest; and this is terribly unfair what we are doing when we make no attempt to pay for it. None whatsoever. There are some things in there, as I said, that I think are good public policy, and I would like to work on and try to figure out how to accomplish them.

We have paid up to now about \$140 billion this year in interest payments. That is as much as this bill costs almost for the next 5 years. That shows what kind of unbelievable, almost un-Godly thing we are doing to the next generation when we make no attempt to pay for these matters.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the State of California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

My colleagues, there is a legitimate difference of opinion on what constitutes sound economic stimulus for this economy. We all support emergency help for the unemployed Americans, over a million that have exhausted their benefits. There is even widespread support for the tax extenders, such as the work opportunity tax credits. And there is even majority support in the body for the accelerated depreciation of company assets. But there is not bipartisan, bicameral support to pass massive tax cuts that benefit large corporations like Enron and the well-to-do in America, especially when those tax cuts are paid for by workers' contributions to Social Security.

These tax cuts raid the Social Security Trust Fund and deepen the deficit

by \$72 billion this year alone. So let us pass what we all say we agree on: help and relief for the unemployed American. And then let us come back and do the other good, reasonable work on economic stimulus. But do not hold Americans hostage while we bicker.

We toyed with Americans back in September when we passed this airline bailout bill of billions of dollars for corporations, and we were told it would help American workers. It did not. My colleagues toyed last night, the Republican leadership in this House, with campaign finance reform; but we were successful in getting it through. Even Enron toyed with its workers by making them lose all their money in their pension funds and displacing them and now having them unemployed.

It is time to stop toying with the American worker. It is time for us to do some work. There are adults who are unemployed; let us act like adults and get some work done. Unanimously the Senate said let us at least do unemployment relief for American workers. We can do the same thing. Let us be big enough to know there are differences of opinion. Let us come together and do what is right for the American worker and then come back and do what else is right for the American economy. But do not hold the American workers hostage.

I hope my colleagues will not vote for this because they think it is going to help. It is a sham and it will not work. Let us help American workers today.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I want to commend my colleague from California for putting together a great package. This is similar to the package we passed back in December.

The most important thing we can do, obviously, for the economy is to stimulate, and that is why this package is a good one. It actually has stimulation. It ought to stimulate the economy. And the notion that simply extending someone's unemployment benefits will somehow stimulate the economy is absurd. We have to get away from that.

We see the other side trot out packages, gifts, Valentines that we are supposedly sending out. I would submit that that is the problem. We take the money and will only give it back by giving it as a gift, a gift that we can bestow, our almightiness here; we can bestow a gift on the American people by giving them back some of their money. It is their money. We ought to not take so much of it. If we want to stimulate the economy, we should not.

That is why this bill is a good one, and that is why I would urge support. It is not unfair to let people keep their own money.

I urge support of the bill.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this bill is really the Republican "Tale of Two Cities." The best of times for some: first-class treatment for the Kenny-boys of the world. And the worst of times for others: third-class treatment for the now unemployed Enron mail room attendant.

And it is a "Tale of Two Cities" in another way. The year 2001, a historically bad year for Enron in Houston, was a wonderful year for Enron here in Washington on tax policy in this House.

Let's review the year: (1) Enron successfully gets favorable treatment in that collection of subsidies and preferences called an "energy bill." (2) Enron successfully supported efforts to block an international crackdown on offshore tax havens. (3) Enron's accounting firm, Arthur Andersen, successfully opposes my bill and all legislation to crack down on abusive corporate tax shelters. And (4) Enron successfully led the coalition that deals with the centerpiece of what we are debating now, the change in the alternative minimum corporate tax.

Instead of contributing a dime to the cost of the war on terrorism, Enron wanted \$254 million back in a government check. That was the Republican leadership's idea—the idea of Enron's Republican allies regarding the true meaning of sacrifice—they would take while others gave.

Indeed, the Secretary of the Treasury told the Ways and Means Committee only last week that he could not find a tax break that Enron asked for last year that the administration did not attempt to give them.

If the bill before us today is approved, just like Enron, others of the most profitable, largest corporations in this country, will not contribute a dime to our national security. The Republicans are not just taking the Kenny-boy approach, but they said it was a "New York" bill. Well, it is. It is the Leona Helmsley approach—"Taxes are for the little people." That is what Republicans have been telling us all last year: "Taxes are for the little people."

And so is shared sacrifice. The little people out there in America, the unemployed, the people that work hard to build this country, they can share the sacrifice while the Kenny-boys will take their checks and go their own way. To add insult to injury, they are paying for all their tax breaks by redirecting Social Security payroll taxes to finance more tax breaks for those at the very top so that these rich corporations do not have to share in the cost of our national security.

How many times do my colleagues have to pass this bill? Just once. Just once, done fairly, without arrogance, done in a bipartisan way, instead of passing it at three in the morning like last time in December, or squeaking through with arm twisting on a two-vote victory in October.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2½ minutes to the